



5/25/2017  
Submitted by Elizabeth Kutter

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS  
Henry Ford Hospital & Medical Centers

Charles J. Barone II, MD, FAAP

May 16, 2017

Chair  
Department of Pediatrics

Pediatric Administration  
1 Ford Place-4B  
Detroit, Michigan 48202-3450  
(313) 874-9591 Office  
(313) 874-9597 Fax

Representative Tom Barrett  
N1090 Anderson House Office Building  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

**RE: MDHHS rule related to personal belief exemptions for vaccinations; and administrative rules related to the use of precautions by local health officers to prevent the spread of disease in schools (B 4425, HB 4426, SB 299 and SB 300)**

Dear Representative Barrett:

On behalf of the more than 29,000 employees of Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) I am writing to express concern with House Bills 4425 and 4426 and Senate Bills 299 and 300. This legislation will limit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service's (Department) authority to make and enforce rules related to vaccination exemptions and rescind local health officers' ability to take precautions to prevent the spread of disease in schools.

As one of the nation's leading academic and integrated health systems, HFHS, headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, serves patients across Southeastern and Southcentral Michigan, with six hospitals and an extensive network of medical centers, emergency rooms and outpatient services, including 11 school based health centers.

HFHS is committed to ensuring the health of school based children in our communities and have earned a reputation as a national leader in school-based health care delivery. The HFHS School-Based and Community Health Program (SBCHP) is based on the belief that both physical and mental health are essential for a student's success. SBCHP has operated school health centers in Wayne County (Detroit and Highland Park) and Macomb County (Warren and Mount Clemens) since 1995. Our sites serve young people in schools where they spend most of their waking hours and where they are open to learning. At the school based health centers, young people ages 4-21 have easy access to primary care and behavioral health services, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.



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HB 4425 and SB 300 (and the related HB 4426 and SB 299) will reverse a Department rule that requires parents seeking a personal belief exemption (PBE) to vaccinations to undergo counseling at a local, state or county health office and sign an acknowledgement that the parents understand they could be putting children at risk by refusing the vaccines. HFHS believes the Department's existing rule helps ensure that parents are informed when making a decision about whether or not to vaccinate their children; **we do not believe this rule should be reversed**. Vaccines are some of the safest medical products available; but like any other medical product, there may be risks. Accurate information about the value of vaccines as well as their possible side effects helps people to make informed decisions about vaccinations.

HB 4425 and SB 300 would also rescind administrative rules that currently allow local public health officers to take steps to protect the public, including school children, from exposure to infectious and communicable diseases and the spread of the disease. HFHS believes that existing administrative rules help ensure that our local health officers have the ability to use appropriate barrier precautions, treatment or isolation as needed to help prevent the spread of infectious and communicable diseases.

The current rules help ensure the health of school children, their families and communities across the state by preventing the spread of infectious and communicable diseases. Reversing or rescinding these rules through the passage of this legislation or other means will put the public health at risk.

I would be happy to discuss my concerns with you in more detail. Please contact Chip Amoe, Assistant Director, Government Affairs, at 313-874-6914 or [camoe1@hfhs.org](mailto:camoe1@hfhs.org) or Elizabeth Kutter, Manager, Government Affairs, at 313-574-1375 or [ekutter1@hfhs.org](mailto:ekutter1@hfhs.org) if you are interested in discussing further.

Thank you,

Charles J Barone II MD FAAP  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics Henry Ford Medical Group  
Medical Director, Child and Adolescent Health Centers  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Wayne State University School of Medicine

Cc: House Education Reform Committee



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# Vaccines for Children

## 20 years of protecting America's children

The Vaccines for Children program was established in 1994 to make vaccines available to uninsured children. VFC has helped prevent disease and save lives...big time!

CDC estimates that vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2013 will:

prevent **322 million** illnesses



more than the current population of the entire U.S.A

help avoid **732,000** deaths



greater than the population of Boston, MA

save nearly **\$1.4 trillion** in total societal costs  
*(that includes \$295 billion in direct costs)*



or \$4,473 for each American



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Source: Estimates from Immunization Impact: The Vaccines for Children Program 1994-2013

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[www.cdc.gov/features/vfcprogram](http://www.cdc.gov/features/vfcprogram)

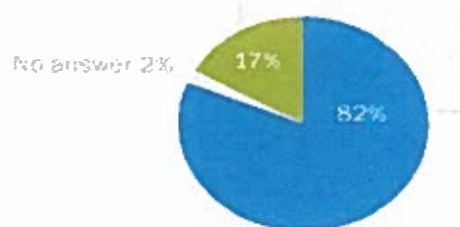
# Vast Majority of Americans Say Benefits of Childhood Vaccines Outweigh Risks

## Most Americans support a school-based vaccine requirement

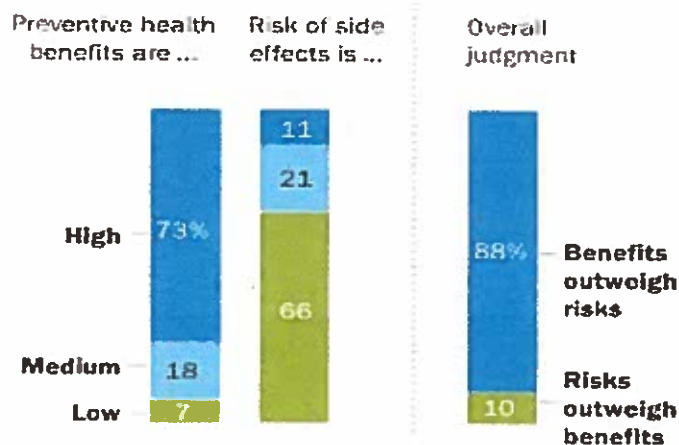
% of U.S. adults who say about childhood vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella ...

Parents should be able to decide not to vaccinate their children even if that may create health risks for others

Healthy children should be required to be vaccinated to attend school because of potential risk to others



## Most rate the benefits high, the risk low



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer to questions in bottom chart are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 10-June 6, 2016.

"Vast Majority of Americans Say Benefits of Childhood Vaccines Outweigh Risks"

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### Margins of error

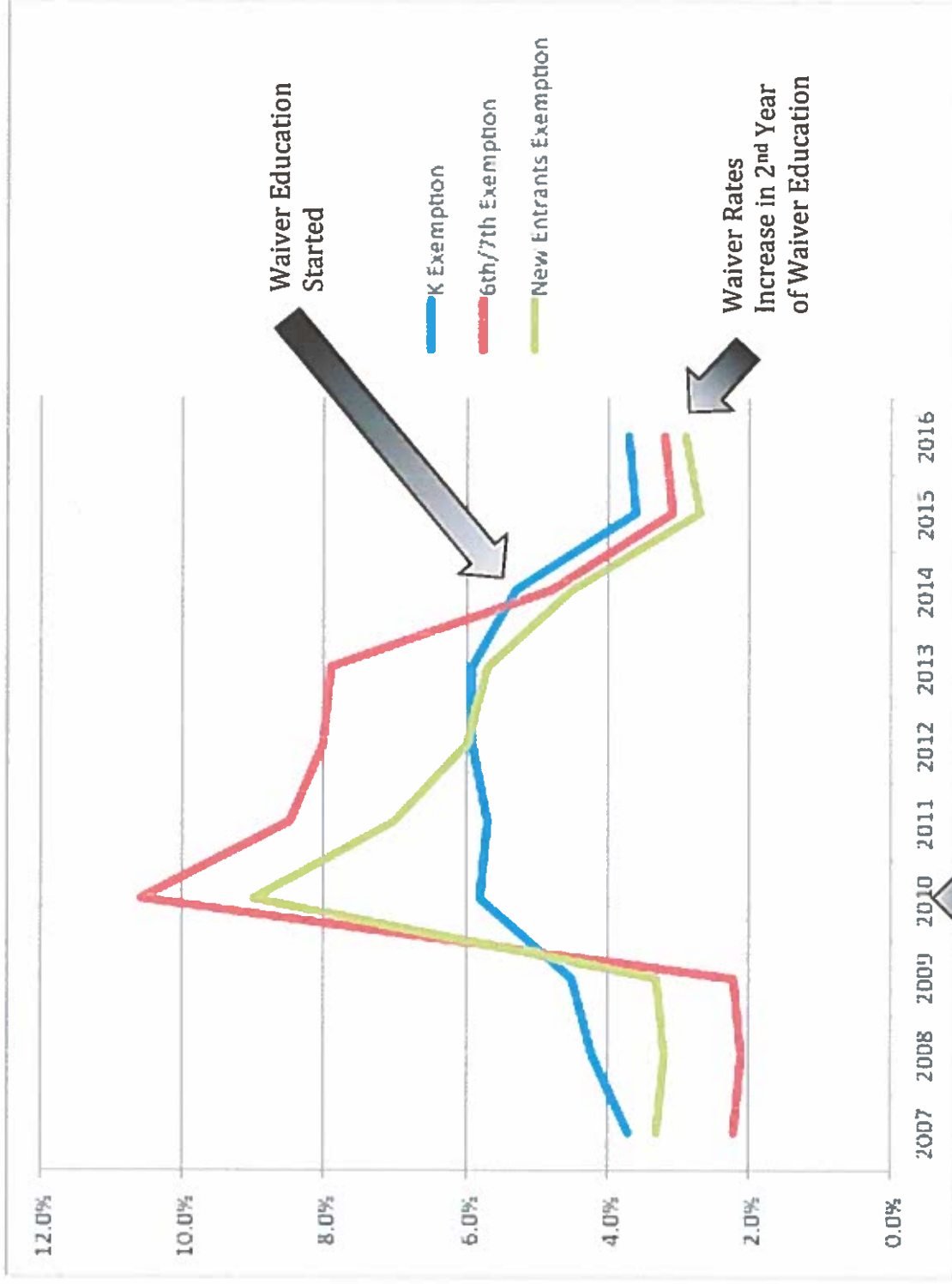
	Sample size	Margin of error in percentage points
Full sample in form 1	1,549	+/- 4.0
Parent of a child under 18		
Have a child 0 to 4 years	122	+/- 14.1
Have a child 5 to 17, no children 0 to 4	231	+/- 10.3
No children under age 18	1,147	+/- 4.6
Men	762	+/- 5.7
Women	787	+/- 5.6
White	1,183	+/- 4.5
Black	133	+/- 13.5
Hispanic	132	+/- 13.6
18-29	189	+/- 11.4
30-49	411	+/- 7.7
50-64	515	+/- 6.9
65 and older	434	+/- 7.5
Science knowledge		
High	462	+/- 7.3
Medium	798	+/- 5.5
Low	289	+/- 9.2
Postgraduate degree	344	+/- 8.4
College degree	406	+/- 7.8
Some college	512	+/- 6.9
H.S. or less	287	+/- 9.2

Note: Based on those completing form 1. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. The margins of error are reported at the 95% level of confidence and are calculated by taking into account the average design effect for each subgroup.

"Vast Majority of Americans Say Benefits of Childhood Vaccines Outweigh Risks"

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3 new vaccines mandated by  
health department  
2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Chickenpox  
5<sup>th</sup> dose of DTaP  
Meningococcal